

Patent Application Serial No. 09/881,341 -9-
Reply to November 15, 2005 Office Action

Docket No. 1232-4723

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claim 3 is canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 19-21, and 22 are amended herein. No new matter is added by these amendments. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 4-24 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 19, and 23 are independent in form. Claims 1 and 3-24 are rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 18, 19 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,526,516 B1 (“Ishikawa”) in view of Youn, U.S. Patent No. 5,812,386 (“Youn”). Claims 4-11, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ishikawa, in view of Youn, and further in view of Jeon, U.S. Publication No. 2002/21-126516 A1 (“Jeon”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the claims and prior art in the stated rejections and respectfully traverses these rejections.

The invention recited in claim 1 is directed to a processing apparatus having a function of connecting to another apparatus. The claimed processing apparatus comprises a power input unit adapted to connect a power supply, a power circuit adapted to provide power to each part of the processing apparatus, *a switch adapted to connect or disconnect said power input unit and said power circuit, wherein the power is supplied to said power circuit from said power input unit through said switch, and a power controller adapted to control said switch on*

Patent Application Serial No. 09/881,341 -10-
Reply to November 15, 2005 Office Action

Docket No. 1232-4723

the basis of an instruction given by the other apparatus, wherein said power controller is configured to operate by using electric power supplied from the other apparatus.

According to the claimed invention, power is supplied to the power circuit from the power input unit through the switch, and the power controller controls the switch on the basis of an instruction given by the other apparatus. At page 4 in the Office Action dated November 15, 2005, the Examiner asserts that it is quite simple for one having ordinary skill in the art to provide a storage medium inside the controller that contains program codes instructing the power controller to control the switch, based on the Ishikawa's disclosure such that the invention can also be achieved by storing program codes that perform the functions according to the embodiments and execute them.

However, neither Ishikawa nor Youn teach controlling a switch arranged between a power circuit and a power input unit by giving an instruction to the power controller from another apparatus. Even if the arrangements disclosed by Ishikawa and Youn can be replaced with the software-based arrangements, such replacement cannot provide the feature of the invention according to claim 1. Independent claims 19 and 23 are believed to define patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention as claimed is neither taught nor suggested by, and therefore is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of, Ishikawa or Youn, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 18, 19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Patent Application Serial No. 09/881,341 -11-
Reply to November 15, 2005 Office Action

Docket No. 1232-4723

Dependent Claims

Applicant has not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant submits that, in view of the arguments presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as to why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed supra, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicant however, reserves the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

Response to Examiner's Remarks

The Examiner indicated that Applicant's remarks at the top of page 12 of the response dated October 5, 2005 argue limitations that are not supported in the claim. In this section, Applicant was pointing out, again re-iterates here, differences in the structure of the claimed invention and the proposed combination of Ishikawa and Youn, which Applicant believes renders the present invention patentably distinct from such combination.

For example, the previous version of claim 1 was directed to a processing apparatus having a function of connecting to another apparatus comprising: a switch adapted to connect or disconnect a power input unit and a power circuit, wherein said power input unit comprises a connector adapted to connect a power supply, and wherein power is supplied to said power circuit from said power input unit exclusively through said switch; and a power controller adapted to control said switch by using electric power supplied from the other apparatus.

In Ishikawa's system, only AC adapter 123 has a connector adapted to connect a power supply. Thus, in the proposed combination of Ishikawa and Youn, Youn's switch would be employed in AC adapter 123. As an initial matter, the AC adapter 123 can hardly be considered a "processing apparatus." Further, referring to FIG. 2 of Ishikawa, printer 117 is the

Patent Application Serial No. 09/881,341 -12-
Reply to November 15, 2005 Office Action

Docket No. 1232-4723

only apparatus to which the AC adapter 123 is connected, other than a power supply, which is not depicted. However, the printer 117 does not supply power to the AC adapter 123, since the printer 117 is not connected to a power supply. Thus, the proposed combination does not contain a power controller adapted to control said switch by "using electric power supplied from the other apparatus."

The Examiner also commented on Applicant's remarks at the bottom of page 13 of the response dated October 5, 2005. It was argued that the combination of Ishikawa and Youn does not result in the claimed subject matter.

The combination of Ishikawa and Youn that was proposed by the Examiner would require two switches, each of which provides power to a power circuit 206. That is, the proposed combination would require a first switch, thyristor SCR, which intermittently provides power to the power circuit 206 in a power saving mode, and a second switch, relay RL, which continuously provides power to the power circuit 206 in a full-power mode. Thus, power is not supplied to the power circuit 206 exclusively through either switch, since there are two switches that provide power to power circuit 206 in different modes of operation.

Accordingly, the structure of the proposed combination does not include "a switch adapted to connect or disconnect a power input unit and a power circuit ... wherein power is supplied to said power circuit from said power input unit exclusively through said switch." Therefore, the combination does not result in the claimed subject matter.

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the

Patent Application Serial No. 09/881,341 -13-
Reply to November 15, 2005 Office Action

Docket No. 1232-4723

event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4723.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4723.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 13, 2006

By:


Stephen J. Manetta
Registration No. 40,426

Correspondence Address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile